UNO report on deaths of children for want of proper care

†2265. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recently released report of the UNO wherein it has been stated that around 23 lakh children below the age of five years, die every year for want of proper care and timely medical facilities;

(b) if so, the effective steps Government are going to take to avoid the untimely death of such children; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) As per the estimates of child mortality rate provided by Sample Registration System it is estimated that nearly 24 lakh child deaths take place in the country.

Under the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme, immunization, control of deaths due to acute respiratory infections and diarrhoea, provision of essential newborn care and promotion of exclusive breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding are being implemented. To prevent micronutrient deficiencies of Vitamin A and Iron, prophylactic programmes are under implementation.

Several schemes have been launched to improve outreach services in the remote and difficult areas to further reduce infant and child mortality. These, *inter alia,* include organization of RCH Camps, Dai Training Programme, Scheme for Strengthening Reproductive and Child Health Services, Immunization Strengthening Project, Border District Cluster Strategy and operationalisation of Newborn Care.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.